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Anmelder/Applicant/Demandeur/Patentinhaber/Proprietor/Titulaire Ooe, Toshiaki, et al	

COMMUNICATION

The European Patent Office herewith transmits as an enclosure the European search report for the above-mentioned European patent application.

If applicable, copies of the documents cited in the European search report are attached.

☒ Additional set(s) of copies of the documents cited in the European search report is (are) enclosed as well.

The following specifications given by the applicant have been approved by the Search Division:

☒ abstract

☒ title

☐ The abstract was modified by the Search Division and the definitive text is attached to this communication.

The following figure will be published together with the abstract: 1

REFUND OF THE SEARCH FEE

If applicable under Article 10 Rules relating to fees, a separate communication from the Receiving Section on the refund of the search fee will be sent later.





DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
X A	US 5 649 517 A (SEKAR RAMANUJAM R ET AL) 22 July 1997 (1997-07-22) * column 4, line 30 - line 55 * * column 7, line 24 - line 43 * * column 10, line 61 - column 13, line 61 * * figure 4 *	1,5,9 11,13	F02M25/12 F02M33/00 F01N3/08 B01D53/22
A	WO 99 42709 A (COMPACT MEMBRANE SYSTEMS INC) 26 August 1999 (1999-08-26) * page 15, column 5, line 14 * * page 17, line 13 - page 18, line 7 * * figures 4,5 *	1,11	
A	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 014, no. 478 (M-1036), 18 October 1990 (1990-10-18) & JP 02 191859 A (NISSAN MOTOR CO LTD), 27 July 1990 (1990-07-27) * abstract *	1,11	
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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7) F02M F01N B01D
Place of search MUNICH			Date of completion of the search 23 January 2003
			Examiner Ikas, G
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS			
X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
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This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report. The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on
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23-01-2003

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